

AFD SPIRIT

From the Chief's Desk

Autumn is my favorite time of the year with the fall colors, cool mornings, first frost, hunting season, holidays, and of course the first snow of the year. However, with the good comes the bad. As the temperature cools, we can expect an increase in calls due to chimney fires, heating system malfunctions, and bad road conditions resulting motor vehicle accidents. Hopefully our fire prevention efforts this fall will help minimize our responses. I want to thank Deputy Chief Conley, Scott Blair, Jim Hammond, Bill Powell, Steve Brady and Sean Gaffney for doing a great job with the school program and public appearances this fall.

With fall and winter also comes what public officials refer to as the budget



season. On October 12th the preliminary budget and state of the department

was presented to the Board of Selectmen and the Ways and Means Committee. After a couple of tough economic years with reduced spending we are looking to increase the budget this year to get standard equipment on a replacement cycle. Turn out gear, self contained breathing apparatus (SCBA), pagers and a new engine have been prioritized as our immediate needs in that order. We are in the process of putting together a committee to design and accurately identify the cost of a replacement engine which will be a warrant article at this year's town meeting.

250 Years of Amherst

September 25th on the Amherst Village Green was a perfect day to gather with hundreds of citizens as part of the year long 250th Anniversary for the town.

Amherst Fire Departments contribution was to post a detail with Engine 3, a 2003 Pierce Dash with all the bells and whistles and a 1,500 gallon per minute pump. But that wasn't the

only piece we brought. In the spirit of the 250th, we also brought along The Yankee—the AFD's 202 year old Hunneman and Co. hand tub.

Even though more than 200 years old, the Yankee still pumps water. During our visit to the green the AFD provided two demonstrations—one in the morning and one in the eve-

On the wish list for the future is the same computer software program that the Communication Center and Police Department are using which will make things more efficient by sharing information and data. Mobile software and computers are on the list to allow people in the field to obtain and enter information. Lastly, we hope to finish the second floor of the fire station for additional storage, showers, and sleeping quarters for storm coverage and future staffing. The full report can be viewed on the town's web site, www.amherstnh.gov

Take Care and Stay Safe

Mark Boynton
Fire Chief



Publication of
the Amherst Fire
Department
Association

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This Months

Highlights:

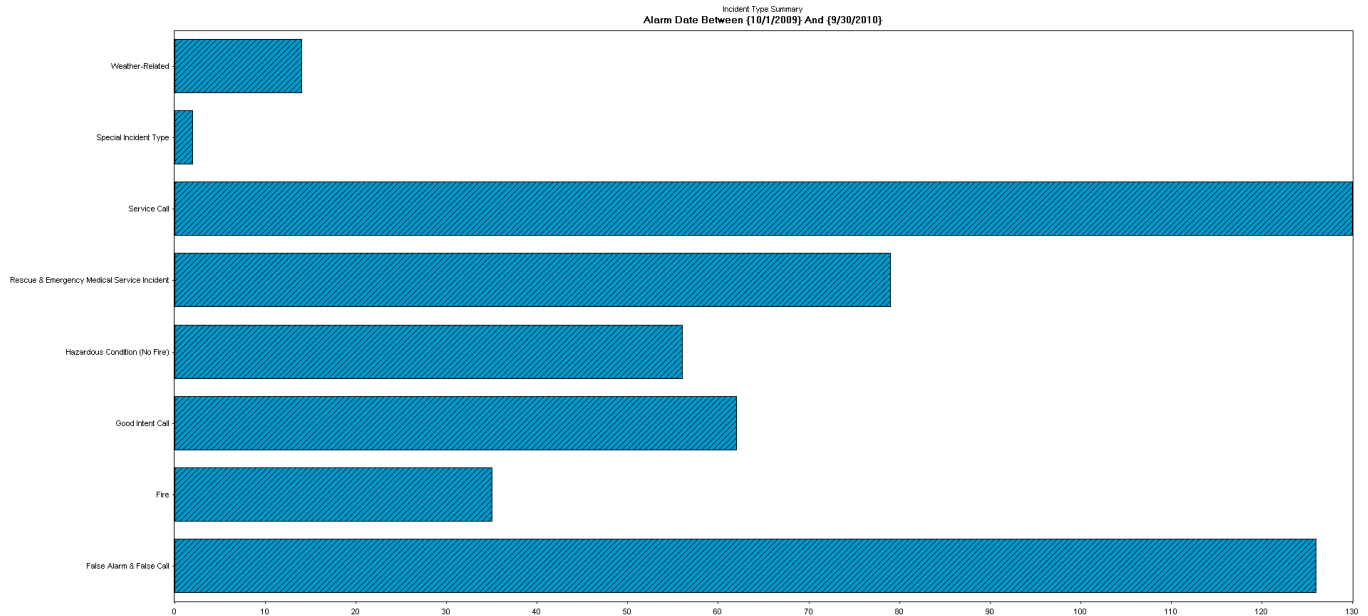
- *Message from the Chief*
- *250th on the Green*
- *Cooking in the burn trailer*
- *Fire Drills!*
- *From the AFD Log Books*

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AFD Run Stats—October 2009 Thru September 2010



String of MVA's in September and October



While it has been eerily quiet on the fire front, there have been several tones over the past two month for motor vehicle accidents. Noteworthy was one accident near FW Webb likely caused by slippery road conditions.

On October 28th, a Toyota Corolla found a utility pole in the area of the plumbing supply warehouse.



Just ask and we will come. AFD members took Engine 1 to a birthday party in September. Pictured is FF Blair all donned up holding a couple of future firefighters.

Fire Prevention—The importance of Fire Drills

An important part of fire prevention education is completing fire drills at various Amherst municipal buildings. Each month, AFD Deputy Chief Matt Conley makes the rounds to the Amherst Schools to perform the drills.



During the drill, a fire alarm is pulled and the building quickly organized and evacuated. Once evacuated, the faculty of the school is required to complete what we normally consider a PAR (Personnel Accountability Report) to ensure that all students, faculty and staff have made their way out of the building. It takes between 6 and 12 minutes to complete the drill but it is a very important distraction for students.

And this should not just be done at school and work. It is important for residences to have an evacuation plan as well with agreed upon meeting places should a fire alarm be activated.

And speaking of fire alarms and smoke detectors, with daylight savings time coming to an end, now is a good time to replace batteries in those smoke and carbon monoxide detectors!

November 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5 <i>Association Dinner</i>	6
7	8	9	10	11 <i>Veteran's Day</i>	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25 <i>Thanksgiving</i>	26	27
28	29	30				

Schedule of Events— November/December 2010

- November 1st—Monthly Department/ Association Meeting
- November 5th—AFD Association Dinner
- November 8th/15th—Company Drills
- November 11th—Veterans Day
- November 22nd—Officer's Meeting
- November 25th—Thanksgiving
- December 6th—Monthly Department/ Association Meeting
- December 12th—Village Tree Lighting—AFD Open House Breakfast!
- December 13th/20th—Company Drills
- December 27th—Officer's Meeting

October Training in the State Class A Burn Trailer

For October training, the AFD was able to use the State supplied Class A burn trailer. The trailer is basically a rolling steel box, specially designed to handle the heat and smoke of burning class A materials (ordinary combustibles).

Under the supervision of State instructors, a fire was placed in the rear of the trailer. AFD members fully "geared up" in turnouts and SCBA the completed evolutions lasting several minutes. During the drills, members used the thermal imaging camera and demonstrated the impact of introducing water to the fire. Temperatures inside the trailer can reach 300 degrees at the ceiling.



State Supplied Class A Burn Trailer at

December 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 <i>AFD Breakfast</i>	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25 <i>Christmas Day</i>
26	27	28	29	30	31	

In the next issue...

- Look for a new article from Amherst EMS
- New Officers Appointed
- Photos from the Fire Association Dinner
- Holiday Breakfast Photos



Halloween in the Village

Amherst Fire Department

177 Amherst St.
Amherst, NH 03031
Phone: 603.673.1545
Emergency: 9-1-1

We're on the Web

www.amherstnh.gov/fire

*Want to Subscribe to this
newsletter? Send an e-mail to
easwenson@comcast.net*

Friend us on Facebook too!

The Amherst Fire Department Association are proud members of our community that respond 24 hours per day, 365 days a year as we have done for over 200 years.

Do you think you have what it takes? Inquire about becoming a call firefighter by calling 603.673.1545 or ask one of us when you see us around town.



Battery disconnect at MVA on Amherst St and Rt. 101

A Look Back—From the Log Books

Once again, FF Hahn has scoured the log books—this time finding out that the AFD was formed 50 years ago this year.

November 7th, 1960, 50 years ago marked the end of the Lawrence Engine Company, and the beginning of the Amherst Fire Department. The last Foreman of the Lawrence Engine Co. George Boutell called the meeting to order, and the company voted to accept the bylaws for the AFD, then voted to: "Merge into a single entity, hereafter known as the Amherst Fire Department." 27 votes were cast, 24 Ayes, 3 No's, motion carried and Chief Gordon Bowler now presiding. The first officers of the AFD were Captains' Richard Crocker, Robert Hancock, and Curtis Worthen. Lt's were Carl Merrill, Chaz Duval, and Upton Byrd. Clerk Howard French, Steward Chaz Reynolds. Finance Committee members: Richard Hill, Richard Gilman, and John Hanlon. Standing Committee members: Richard Crocker, Robert Bragdon, and Chief Gordon Bowler. The December raffle committee was appointed as:

Vernon Grey, James Pollard, and Richard Gilman. An unnamed committee was appointed to look at a new sign for the Engine House, of course to say Amherst Fire Department on it. Of note, it was voted to loan the Amherst Historical Society all the old Lawrence Engine Company Books and Uniforms. Unfortunately, the now formed AFD did not keep books like the LEC and so this is the last time we will be able to mention the AFD in the Spirit.

From November 5th, 1860 at the 16th regular meeting of the Lawrence Engine Company. (In the last edition of the Spirit, we heard that at the Oct 1860 meeting, the LEC voted a committee to tell the Fire Wards of Amherst, that unless the People of Amherst made improvements to supply water on the Common that the company would disband.) Apparently during the month the members got cold feet. A wordy motion was made: "That the vote passed at the previous meeting, whereby voted to disband be reconsidered," by C.E. Neapgood for the Committee chosen at the last meeting to prepare the article for publication. In

discussion the committee reported that it was the opinion of the committee that, "it was inexpedient to publish an article and that nothing further ought to be done in the matter." The membership voted that the report be accepted and adopted. The lesson here is that even 150 years ago, where politics is concerned people needed no help in crafting language that said so little with so many words, and never directly mentions the issue.

From December 3rd, 1860 – the only interesting point is that the log book opens with: "The Lawrence Boys met...." They did vote that the fines for C.H. Phelps be omitted. They also noted that they, "partook of refreshments," by the 2nd Assistant Foreman.

Another interesting piece of information was the accumulating fines by William A. Mack, who accrued \$2.40 in fines by missing every meeting for 1860.
